

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-15 and 23-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 16-22 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-15 and 23-24 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 16-19 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,757 to Cudak et al. (hereinafter “Cudak”).

Claims 16-19 and 21-22 have been canceled without prejudice, and therefore the rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cudak.

Applicant: Zuniga et al.
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Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice, and therefore the rejection is moot.

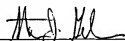
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-15 and 23-24, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Zuniga et al.

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